SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 19, 2012
Minutes

Present:

Jessie Thompson, Bedford Hills Elementary School; Ginna Haske, Bedford Hills Elementary School; Cindy Morse, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation; Larry Wetzel, Sandusky Middle School; Lisa Hames, Linkhorne Middle School; Kris Lloyd, Linkhorne Middle School; Marcus Calloway, Heritage High School; Mary Driskill, Paul Munro Elementary School; Rachel Mitchell, Bedford Hills Elementary School; CoLinda Spanski, Perrymont Elementary; Cecil Jackson, E. C. Glass High School; Scott Brabrand, Superintendent; Wendie Sullivan, Recording Secretary

The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council met in the Board Room at the School Administration Building beginning at 7:05 p.m. Dr. Brabrand introduced himself and provided information about his 100-day entry plan which can be found at www.lcsedu.net. Part of the plan includes meeting with the faculty and staff at each school, meeting with all Lynchburg City Council members and other community leaders, streamlining communication to employees, and meeting with parents through several public forums. Further, each school will develop a school improvement plan and present those plans to the school board that will include instructional and student behavior interventions.

The following question was discussed during the meeting.

1. **I would like the Superintendent to address why the technology positions are being cut from the elementary schools. I am particularly concerned as it will impact the Good Morning Paul Munro program.**

   Approximately 16 years ago, the Lynchburg City Schools made a commitment to create computer labs at each building and to provide computers in all classrooms. At that time, and in support of this initiative, the school division created an Instructional Technology Specialist (ITS) position, whose primary purpose was to provide staff development services and classroom instruction using the Virginia Technology Standards of Learning (SOL). The school division placed one ITS at each of our 16 school sites.

   In 2003, the Virginia Department of Education discontinued testing on the Technology SOL, however, the school division elected to retain the ITS position at

each school to deliver technology-based instruction to both students and staff. With this decision, the Lynchburg City Schools continued to recognize the need to provide these services even though no state funding was available. The Virginia Department of Education eventually saw the need for this position when they instituted the Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel (TSIP), which required each licensed employee to meet required standards set forth by the state and the local educational agency. The Standards of Quality funded one Instructional Technology Resource Teacher (ITRT) at a ratio of 1 per 1,000 students.

Over the course of time and subsequent budget constraints, the original focus of the ITS position was altered to allow for the assignment of additional and sometimes unrelated responsibilities at the building level. These decisions led to a variety of duties and roles being allocated to the ITS depending upon both grade level and school site. In addition, overall supervision of this division-level position was reassigned from the department of information technology to the principal of the building.

For some years the overall effectiveness of the position was reviewed and changes were recommended.   This year, due in part to drastic cuts in the school budget over the course of the past three years, the decision was made to reduce the number of ITS (16) to be more in line with the amount funded by the Standards of Quality (8). In addition, the overall mission and focus of the position was restructured to align more closely with those recommended by the Virginia Department of Education's *Instructional Technology Resource Teachers-Guidelines for Teachers and Administrators* found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/technology/administrators_teachers_staff/teacher_guidelines.pdf

At the present time, a new Instructional Technology – Data Analysis Resource Teacher (IT DART) position has been posted by the LCS department of personnel. It will no longer be a site-based position, but rather one that is division-level and housed at the Information Technology Center. A team of eight IT DARTS will be used to provide technology services, staff development, and data analysis along with other duties in direct support of the division Educational Technology Plan in schools across the division. It is expected that this new position will deliver equal or greater technology-related services with a division-wide approach rather than the former one that was site based.

Members of the committee were urged to email Dr. Brabrand about ideas for the format of future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.